## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

## LISTING OF CLAIMS

 (Currently Amended) A flow control method for Virtual Container (VC)-Trunks in metropolitan-area network equipment, comprising:

determining, by a receiving-end equipment, whether there is congestion at a single VC-Trunk of a plurality of VC Trunks of a physical port of the receiving-end equipment, if there is congestion at the VC-Trunk, adding a VC-Trunk tag indicating that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk in a flow control packet and sending [[a]]the flow control packet with [[a]]the VC-Trunk tag indicating the VC-Trunk-to a transmission-end equipment:

pausing, by the transmission-end equipment, a service transmission of the VC-Trunk according to the VC-Trunk tag in the flow control packet.

2. (Previously Presented) The flow control method according to Claim 1, further comprising: after pausing the service transmission of the VC-Trunk, initiating, by the transmission-end equipment, a flow control timer at the transmission-end equipment; if the flow control timer expires and no new flow control packet is received, resuming, by the transmission-end equipment, the service transmission of the VC-Trunk.

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- 3. (Previously Presented) The flow control method according to Claim 1, further comprising: after sending the flow control packet with the VC-Trunk tag to the transmission-end equipment, initiating, by the receiving-end equipment, a flow control timer at the receiving-end equipment and sending the flow control packet in a timely manner until the congestion disappears.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining whether there is congestion at the VC-Trunk of the receiving-end equipment comprises, calculating, by the receiving-end equipment, the number of service data packets received at the VC-Trunk; and determining that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk if the number exceeds a preset flow control threshold.
- 5. (Previously Presented) The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining whether there is congestion at the VC-Trunk of the receiving-end equipment comprises, determining, by the receiving-end equipment, whether a First In First Out (FIFO) buffer of the VC-Trunk at the receiving-end transmission equipment is overflow, and determining that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk if the FIFO buffer is overflow.
- (Previously Presented) The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein the flow control packet comprises an 802.3x pause frame and the VC-Trunk tag as a header to the 802.3x pause frame.

7. (Previously Presented) The flow control method according to Claim 1, wherein VC-Trunk tags correspond to VC-Trunks one by one, and a length of the VC-Trunk tag is determined by the number of VC-Trunks.

 (Currently Amended) A receiving-end apparatus for flow control of Virtual Container (VC) Trunks, comprising:

a physical port comprising a plurality of VC-Trunks; and

a first unit configured for determining whether there is congestion at a single VC-Trunk of the plurality of VC-Trunks, adding a VC-Trunk tag indicating that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk in a flow control packet and sending out [[a]]the flow control packet with [fa]ithe VC-Trunk tag of the VC-Trunk if there is congestion at the VC-Trunk.

- 9. (Previously Presented) The receiving-end apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first unit is further configured for resuming a service receiving after a time indicated by the flow control packet expires.
- (Previously Presented) The receiving-end apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

a second unit, configured for initiating a flow control timer; and

the first unit is further configured for sending the flow control packet in a timely manner until the congestion disappears.

11. (Previously Presented) The receiving-end apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first unit comprises a first module configured for calculating the number of service data packets received at the VC-Trunk; and determining that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk if the number exceeds a preset flow control threshold.

12. (Previously Presented) The receiving-end apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the first unit comprises a second module configured for determining whether a First In First Out (FIFO) buffer of the VC-Trunk is overflow, and determining that there is congestion at the VC-Trunk if the FIFO buffer is overflow.

 (Currently Amended) A transmission-end apparatus for flow control of Virtual Container (VC) Trunks, comprising:

a physical port comprising a plurality of VC-Trunks; and

a first unit configured for receiving a flow control packet containing a VC-Trunk tag indicating that there is congestion at a single VC-Trunk of the plurality of VC-Trunks through the physical port and pausing service transmission of the VC-Trunk according to the VC-Trunk tag.

14. (Previously Presented) The transmission-end apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a second unit configured for initiating a flow control timer after pausing the service transmission of the VC-Trunk, and resuming the service transmission of the VC-Trunk if the flow control timer expires and no new flow control packet is received.

(Previously Presented) A system for flow control of Virtual Container (VC)
Trunks, comprising:

a receiving-end apparatus configured for determining whether there is congestion at a single VC-Trunk of a plurality of VC-Trunks of a physical port of the receiving-end apparatus, and sending out a flow control packet with a VC-Trunk tag of the VC-Trunk if there is congestion at the VC-Trunk; and

a transmission-end apparatus configured for pausing a service transmission of the VC-Trunk according to the VC-Trunk tag received in the flow control packet.

- 16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the receiving-end apparatus is further configured for initiating a flow control timer, and sending the flow control packet to the transmission-end apparatus in a timely manner until the congestion disappears.
- 17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the transmissionend apparatus is further configured for initiating a flow control timer after pausing the service transmission of the VC-Trunk, and resuming the service transmission of the VC-Trunk if the flow control timer expires and no new flow control packet is received.
- 18. (New) The flow control method of claim 1, wherein the flow control packet with the VC-Trunk tag is sent to the transmission-end equipment through anyone of the plurality of VC-Trunks except for the VC-Trunk which has congestion.
- 19. (New) The receiving-end apparatus of claim 8, wherein the first unit is further configured for sending out the flow control packet with the VC-Trunk tag through anyone of the plurality of VC-Trunks except for the VC-Trunk which has congestion.
- 20. (New) The transmission-end apparatus of claim 13, wherein the first unit is further configured for receiving the flow control packet through one of the plurality of VC-Trunks except for the VC-Trunk which has congestion.